

# For Immediate Release



City of Renton - 1055 South Grady Way  
Renton, WA 98057

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## **Renton Names New Emergency Management Director**

RENTON: The City of Renton announced today that Deborah Needham has been appointed Emergency Management Director. Ms. Needham will assume her new role effective May 21, 2007.

Under the direction of Renton's Fire Chief I. David Daniels, Needham will be responsible for planning, organizing and coordinating emergency management activities for the City of Renton. Additionally, Needham will implement city emergency management programs as required by the State of Washington, formulate emergency plan contingencies and coordinate with various community agencies to ensure an organized and timely delivery of emergency services in the event of an incident or disaster.

"Deborah Needham brings a wealth of emergency management expertise to our city," said Chief Daniels. "I am particularly impressed with her community focused approach to emergency preparedness. In Renton we're working towards a unique level of preparedness and Ms. Needham can definitely help us get there. I am thrilled to have someone of Deborah's caliber join the City of Renton's team and can't wait to work with her towards our goal of a safe and prepared community in Renton."

"I look forward to building on the tremendous progress that has already been made in Renton and expanding the city's critical role in facilitating local and regional emergency preparedness and response efforts," said Needham. "I'm honored to be joining Chief Daniels' team."

Needham has been employed for the past nine years as a member of the team at Clark Regional Emergency Services Agency (CRESA) in Clark County, Washington. The consolidated agency, based in Vancouver, delivers 9-1-1 and emergency management services to a jurisdiction of over 400,000 residents. Ms. Needham has been involved in both state and national declared disaster response. She brings a wealth of expertise that will help Renton move to the next level with respect to Emergency Management.

During her service with CRESA, Needham distinguished herself in numerous projects. She was involved in the setup and operation of the Mt. St. Helens Joint Information Center in Clark County. She implemented a highly efficient redesign of the Clark Regional Emergency Operations Center. She is an experienced grant writer, contributing to the acquisition of a \$300,000 grant for Clark County in 2000, and acquiring several smaller grants. As the lead exercise designer at CRESA, she consistently garnered broad participation for large multi-jurisdiction and interdisciplinary exercises to test and improve regional preparedness.

In addition to serving on regional and state emergency plan review committees, Needham has made significant contributions to several local committees including Portland's Regional Emergency Management Technical Committee, Clark County Local Emergency Planning Committee, Citizen Corps Council, Community Organizations Active in Disaster, Safe Schools Task Force, and Public Safety Educators' Coalition. She is a member of both the International Association of Emergency Managers and the Washington State Emergency Management Association.

Ms. Needham earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Social Sciences, graduating with honors from Portland State University in 1997. She has completed the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Professional Development Series for emergency management professionals and the Strategic Leadership series at the Institute for Strategic Leadership at Washington State University, Vancouver. Ms. Needham is now actively pursuing the Certified Emergency Manager (CEM) designation.

Needham was attracted to the City of Renton's "Ahead of the Curve" slogan. She has spent her professional life seeking continuous improvement and new challenges. Her leadership philosophy is one of collaboration, inclusiveness, open dialogue, and strong and effective partnerships.

Deborah Needham will be available in Renton on May 11, 2007, for media interviews. Please contact Preeti Shridhar at 425-430-6569 if you would like to schedule an interview.

